

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Department of Social Services



**ONS TRANSMITTAL NUMBER 04 04**

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**Subject:** Fuel Crisis Assistance 2004 - 2005

**To:** Refugee Provider Directors

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For your information, the Virginia Department of Social Services recently announced its Energy Assistance Program's Fuel and Crisis Assistance implementation schedule for the 2004-2005 winter season. ONS is sending you this information in the event any of the refugee families you serve are eligible to apply for this assistance.

The *fuel assistance* period begins on October 12, 2004 and ends on Friday, November 12, 2004. The *crisis assistance* period begins on November 1, 2004 and ends on March 15, 2005.

Address questions regarding this schedule to local department of social services staff handling the energy assistance program.

Here is the definition of Energy Assistance found on the VDSS website: *"The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) assists low-income households in meeting their immediate home energy needs. To be eligible, the household must have a heating or cooling expense and gross monthly income that does not exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty level. Application for fuel, crisis, and cooling assistance are accepted at the local departments of social services. The EA Program consists of four components:*

- *Fuel Assistance: This primarily provides assistance with purchasing home heating fuel and payment of primary heating utility bills.*
- *Crisis Assistance: This is intended to meet household emergency heating need. Assistance offered includes one-time only heat security deposit, portable heater for temporary use, purchase of home heating fuel, payment of heat utility bill, payment for emergency shelter, and/or heating equipment repair/purchase.*
- *Cooling Assistance: This provides purchase or repair of cooling equipment and/or payment for electricity to operate cooling equipment.*
- *Weatherization Assistance: This applies air infiltration measures to the housing structure. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development administers this component.*

*The Virginia Energy Assistance Program was established by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 and Title III of the Human Services Amendments of 1994 and other amendments, which authorize grants to states to assist eligible household in the costs of home energy. The Act also establishes a Leveraging Incentive Program.”*